

House Resolution 2192

By: Representatives Brooks of the 63rd, Abdul-Salaam of the 74th, Beasley-Teague of the 65th, Abrams of the 84th, Morgan of the 39th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of Ms. Dorothy Irene Height; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia and this country mourns the loss of one of this nation's
3 great Civil Rights leaders with the passing of Ms. Dorothy Irene Height on April 20, 2010;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Ms. Height was born on March 24, 1912, in Richmond, Virginia, the beloved
6 daughter of James and Fannie Burroughs Height; and

7 WHEREAS, she was the unheralded seventh member of the "Big Six" Civil Rights leaders,
8 working alongside Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., James Farmer, John Lewis, A.
9 Phillip Randolph, Roy Wilkins, and Whitney M. Young, Jr., on projects of national
10 significance; and

11 WHEREAS, Ms. Height was admitted to Barnard College in 1929 but was turned away from
12 enrolling in courses because the school had reached its quota for African American students
13 for the year; and

14 WHEREAS, she went on to earn a bachelor's degree in education and a master's degree in
15 psychology from New York University; and

16 WHEREAS, one of the chief organizers of the March on Washington, Ms. Height sat on the
17 platform just feet away from Dr. King as he delivered his world-changing "I Have a Dream"
18 speech in 1963; and

19 WHEREAS, a prize winning orator, Ms. Height was not asked to speak at the March on
20 Washington rally, a subject she addressed in her memoir, *Open Wide the Freedom Gates*,
21 which provided a poignant look at African American history during the Civil Rights era; and

22 WHEREAS, Ms. Height served as the President of the National Council of Negro Women
23 from 1957 to 1997, instituting a variety of social programs in the Deep South during the
24 years of the Civil Rights movement, including the pig bank in which poor black families
25 were given a pig; and

26 WHEREAS, during the mid-1980's, Ms. Height established the Black Family Reunions
27 program with the council, in which large, celebratory gatherings were held in cities across
28 the country devoted to the history, traditions, and culture of African Americans; and

29 WHEREAS, this Civil Rights icon was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by
30 President Bill Clinton in 1994 and a Congressional Gold Medal from President George W.
31 Bush in 2004; and

32 WHEREAS, known by many as the godmother of the Civil Rights movement, Ms. Height
33 was an American hero and a great defender of equality, and her legacy and influence will live
34 for generations to come.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
36 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Ms. Dorothy Irene Height
37 and express their deepest and most sincere regret at her passing.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
39 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Ms. Dorothy
40 Irene Height.